

11. An electronic bulletin board system comprising:  
5 a plurality of electronic bulletin boards; and  
a central server which, upon receiving a request from a  
mobile information terminal to access any one of the plurality  
of electronic bulletin boards, sends access information to said  
mobile information terminal,  
10 wherein said electronic bulletin board comprises an icon  
message generating portion for receiving a message and generating  
an icon message, a bulletin board screen generating portion for  
placing the generated icon message at a designated location,  
a display portion for receiving the output from said bulletin  
15 board screen generating portion and displaying the bulletin board  
on the screen, and a transmitting/receiving portion for  
communicating with a mobile information terminal, wherein said  
icon message generating portion receives a message from said  
mobile information terminal and converts the message to an icon,  
20 receives a request for reading said icon message and restores  
said icon message, and transmits the restored message to said  
mobile information terminal,  
said central server comprises a database for pre-storing  
the relationship between the locations of the plurality of  
25 electronic bulletin boards and the zones of a plurality of radio  
base station sites of said mobile information terminal, and  
said central server receives, together said access request,  
identification information for specifying the radio base station  
site used for communication by said mobile information terminal,  
30 retrieves said database based on said identification information  
and extracts the most preferred electronic bulletin board from  
among said plurality of electronic bulletin boards, accesses  
the most preferred electronic bulletin board and acquires the  
restored message of said icon message, and transmits the restored  
35 message to said mobile information terminal.

-21-

12. An electronic bulletin board system according to claim 11, wherein said central server receives icon messages from said plurality of electronic bulletin boards, unfolds the icon messages on its own bulletin board, and, upon receiving a request
- 5 from said mobile information terminal to access any one of said plurality of electronic bulletin boards, accesses its own bulletin board instead of directly accessing said extracted most preferred electronic bulletin board.

T.0358073608